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The Case of Sir *Lewis Palmer* Baronet, relating to his Election to serve in this Present Parliament as Burgeses for the *Borough of Higham Ferry's* in the County of *Northampton*.

Humbly Offered to the Consideration of the Honourable the Knights, Citizens and Burgeses in Parliament Assembled.

Higham Ferry's is an ancient *Borough* by prescription, and was incorporated by Charter, bearing date the 10th. of Mar. 2d. 3d. Phil. and Mary. Which Charter confirms their Ancient, and grants to them new Priviledges.

The Town is thereby Incorporated by the name of Mayor, Aldermen and Burgeses of the *Borough and Parish of Higham Ferry's*.

The Charter directs that there shall be one Mayor, seven Aldermen and thirteen Burgeses, which are called Capital Burgeses.

It grants a power of sending one Burges to Parliament, (which the Town never had before); and directs the choice of such Burges to be by the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgeses of the *Borough and Parish of Higham Ferry's*.

Pursuant to which Charter, *Primo Elizabeth* they sent a Burges to Parliament, and so have ever since done to all succeeding Parliaments; and the choice of such Members hath always been unanimous; so that never any contest yet arose concerning the manner of (or who had right to vote in) such Elections.

A Precept coming to the Mayor of the Towns hand from the High Sheriff of the County, directing him to proceed to the Election of a Burges to serve in this present Parliament, for the said *Borough*, he gave notice thereof to the Town and Parish by Proclamation two days before the Election.

17. Feb. 1679. Was the day appointed for the Election, when there stood in competition,

Sir *Lewis Palmer*, Baronet.

Sir *Rice Rud*, Baronet.

The Poll being demanded was granted, fairly taken and duly closed; and upon Numbering thereof, It appeared that

Sir *Lewis Palmer* had ——— 118 } Electors.
Sir *Rice Rud* had but ——— 86 }

Nevertheless the Mayor of the said Town, contrary unto, and in Breach of his Trust, violation of Justice, and manifest Injury to Sir *Lewis*, returned Sir *Rice Rud* as duly Elected, and refused to return Sir *Lewis Palmer*.

Sir *Lewis Palmer* prays therefore relief according to the Equity and Justice that shall appear to be in his Case.

Upon hearing whereof the question will be, who have Right to vote in the Elections of Burgeses to serve for that *Borough* in Parliament.

1st. Whether the Mayor, Aldermen, and Capital Burgeses, which consist but of 21. have the sole right of Election in them?

This (it is presumed) Sir *Rice Rud* will not pretend to.

2^{ly}. Whither the Mayor, Aldermen, Burgeses and other Inhabitants living within the Town and paying Scot and Lot, be the only persons that ought to vote in the choice of a Member to serve for them in Parliament?

If these only shall happen to have the right, then setting aside the Votes obtained by Bribes, Threats, and Menaces, and other undue means, Sir *Lewis* hath the greater number of those Electors.

3^{ly}. Or whether all the Inhabitants of the *Borough* and out Hamlets thereof within the *Parish of Higham Ferry's*, paying Scot and Lot, shall not give their Votes in Election, They being Incorporated with the *Borough* by Charter?

These Sir *Lewis Palmer* insists upon to have a Right of voting in Election. Nevertheless submits the Consideration of his Case, to the wisdom of this Honourable House, praying only to be fully heard, that so the Right of those for whom he appears may be preserved to them and himself receive relief agreeable to Justice.